

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Francis D. Gibson, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Rich Cunningham
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Bradley G. Last
Rep. David E. Lifferth
Rep. Daniel McCay
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jim Nielson

Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Dean Sanpei
Rep. V. Lowry Snow
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Members Absent:

Sen. Stuart C. Reid, Senate Chair
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Staff Present:

Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Sen. Reid was excused from the meeting.

Ms. Stallings reviewed the requirements of the Open and Public Meetings Act and distributed a summary of Utah Code Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Madsen, Sen. Urquhart, Rep. Eliason, and Rep. Nielson were absent for the vote.

2. School Trust Report

Ms. Margaret Bird, Director, School Children's Trust Section, Utah State Office of Education (USOE), made a report on school trust lands, which the School Children's Trust Section is required to submit to the Legislature annually. Ms. Bird reviewed a visual presentation, "Utah's Magnificent Endowment," which addressed trust principles applicable to the school trust, the management of school trust lands, the investment into the State School Fund, and the distribution and use of the earnings and interest from the State School Fund.

Ms. Bird noted that the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has organized a task force to study and make recommendations for the management of the State School Fund.

3. Acquisition of New Products and Services Funded in the 2013 General Session

Mr. Spencer Eccles, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development, reviewed a visual presentation, "Smart Schools & STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)," which describes the implementation of the Smart School Technology Program and the STEM Action Center. In the current school year, three schools in the state were equipped with personal computing devices for each student through the Smart School Technology Program. Legislation enacted in the 2013 General Session S.B. 284, "Education Technology Amendments," appropriates \$2,400,000 to expand the Smart School Technology Program. The STEM Action Center was created by 2013 General Session H.B. 139, "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Action Center." The first initiative of the STEM Action Center is to acquire STEM related instructional technology.

Dr. Martell Menlove, State Superintendent, distributed and reviewed two charts, "2013 Session – Passed Bills Worksheet," and "Instructional Services Division RFPs & Grants 2013," which outline the implementation of bills enacted in the 2013 General Session, including bills requiring the USBE to acquire new products or services through a request for proposals (RFP) process. New educational products and services funded in the 2013 General Session include: 1) interactive computer software for literacy instruction and assessment of students in grades K-3; 2) college readiness assessments; and 3) an online program to prepare students for college readiness assessments. Superintendent Menlove also distributed a booklet, "Public Education Summary - 2013 General Session of the Utah Legislature," which summarizes bills that affect the public education system.

Ms. Debra Roberts, Chair, USBE, briefly spoke regarding the USBE's adoption of the Common Core as Utah's core standards in reading and math. She asserted that the USBE feels strongly about maintaining its authority and control over the public education system and would never abdicate that authority to either the federal government or higher education system.

Superintendent Menlove and Ms. Roberts responded to committee members' concerns regarding the Common Core.

4. Implementation of H.B. 318, "Classroom Size Revisions"

Superintendent Menlove distributed a proposed draft of a report, "Draft Class Size Reduction (CSR)/K-3 Reading/Title 1 Annual Report (HB 318)," that a school district or charter school is required to make to qualify for class size reduction money pursuant to 2013 General Session H.B. 318, "Classroom Size Revisions." He explained that the draft report shows how funds are distributed for class size reduction and how the K-3 Reading Improvement Program and the Title I program are used to employ teachers.

5. Education Studies for 2013

Chair Gibson invited committee members to select study suggestions from the list of Master Study Resolution Items, which was included in the committee's mailing packet. He noted that Rep. Nielson would like the committee to study item 35, "Front-line Teachers Data."

Rep. Moss expressed a frequent complaint of Utah teachers and parents that they would like to see an appropriate balance between instruction and testing. Chair Gibson stated that since this issue is not on the list of study items assigned to the committee, he will have to submit a request to the Legislative Management Committee.

Other study items suggested by committee members include:

- Item 52, "Student Assessment," Sen. Madsen

- Item 42, "Preschool Impact," Rep. Arent
- Item 32, "Dropout Reduction Strategy," Sen. Madsen
- Item 28, "Bullying Prevention Programs," Rep. Moss
- Item 36, "Implementation of Civics Education," Sen. Madsen

Rep. Stratton stated he would like the committee to remain open and flexible to address issues that the Education Task Force may identify.

Rep. Cunningham informed the committee of an upcoming report and recommendations from the USBE on the management of the State School Fund that he would like to address as a study item.

6. Other Items/Adjourn

Chair Gibson reminded committee members to fill out and return to staff the form "Legislator Preference for Receiving Interim Meeting Mailing Packets."

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Hughes and Rep. Nielson absent for the vote.

Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.